## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS HOUSTON DIVISION

| ALICIA WILSON   |            | \$<br>\$<br>\$       |                       |
|-----------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| v.              | Plaintiff, | &                    | NoJURY TRIAL DEMANDED |
| EZ EXIT NOW, LI | LC         | <b>§</b><br><b>§</b> |                       |
|                 | Defendant. | \$<br>\$<br>\$       |                       |

## **PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT**

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COME NOW the Plaintiff Alicia Wilson ("Wilson"), and bring this action against the Defendant EZ Exit Now, LLC (hereinafter "Defendant EZ Exit Now" or "Defendant") for violations under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and 42 U.S.C. § 1981.

## A. NATURE OF THE CASE

- 1. This employment discrimination case is brought by Plaintiff Alicia Wilson against Defendant EZ Exit Now as it failed to hire her, rescinded her offer of employment, or terminated her because she is a Black female.
- 2. EZ Exit Now provides timeshare exit services.

3. The Plaintiff brings her claims pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended by the Civil Rights Act of 1991, 42 U.S.C. 2000e, *et. seq.* ("Title VII") and 42 U.S.C. § 1981.

### **B. PARTIES**

- 4. Plaintiff Alicia Wilson is a resident of Houston, Texas.
- 5. Defendant EZ Exit Now, LLC is a domestic limited liability company with its principal place of business at 4606 FM 1960 Road, West Suite 210 in Houston, Texas 77069-4617. It may be served through its registered agent Kristin Joy Cobb at 4606 FM 1960 West Suite 210, Houston, Texas 77069.

#### C. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 6. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this case because it arises under the laws of the United States 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question).
- 7. On April 26, 2016, Plaintiff filed her charge of discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC").
- 8. On October 11, 2017, the EEOC made a Determination that Plaintiff was not hired based upon her race (Black) and or her sex (female), in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- 9. The EEOC also gathered evidence and concluded that Defendant failed to maintain personnel or other records, including employment applications, during the relevant time period, and or failed to preserve all personnel records relevant to the charge of discrimination filed by Plaintiff until final disposition of the charge, as required by 29 C.F.R. § 1602.14.

- 10. Plaintiff has exhausted any applicable administrative remedies and on August 8, 2018, received the Dismissal and Notice of Right to Sue letter from the EEOC. This lawsuit has been filed within 90 days of their receipt of the Dismissal and Notice of Right to Sue letter.
- 11. All conditions precedent to filing this lawsuit and as required by law have been performed or have occurred.
- 12. Venue is proper in this judicial district court under 28 U.S.C. §1391(b) and 42 U.S.C. §2000e-5(f)(3), because Title VII cases may be brought in any judicial district in which a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred, or a substantial part of property that is the subject of the action is situated and in the judicial district in which the aggrieved person would have worked but for the alleged unlawful employment practice.

#### D. STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 13. In or around late March of 2016, Plaintiff Wilson applied for the Call Center Supervisor position with EZ Exit Now.
- 14. On April 1, 2016, she was interviewed by EZ Exit Now's attorney. At the end of the interview, Ms. Wilson was offered the position, was asked to complete the hiring paperwork, and was given a start date.
- 15. On the start date, Plaintiff was called by the Owner Danny Cobb and told that the position was no longer needed.
- 16. The following day, Defendant's counsel contacted Plaintiff to inquire about her absence on the first day. Plaintiff explained that the owner had previously called

and told her not to show up. The attorney assured her that there was a miscommunication and asked her to start the next day.

- 17. When Plaintiff arrived to begin her first day of work with EZ Exit Now, Plaintiff was told that EZ Exit Now would not hire a black female to supervise employees and it was mentioned several times that the owner looks at skin color when hiring supervisors.
- 18. Thereafter, Plaintiff Wilson filed an EEOC charge with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") office.
- 19. The EEOC made a determination that there was sufficient evidence that Plaintiff suffered discrimination because of her protected classes of race and sex and that Defendant violated its record-keeping obligations under 29 C.F.R. § 1602.14.

#### E. CAUSES OF ACTION

# COUNT NO. 1: RACE AND GENDER DISCRIMINATION PURSUANT TO TITLE VII OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT AND 42 U.S.C. 1981

- 20. Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege paragraphs 1-19 with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.
- 21. EZ Exit Now partook in actions that demonstrate gender and race discrimination with malice or with reckless indifference to Wilson's protected rights and are in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and 42 U.S.C. 1981.
- 22. Wilson belongs to protected classes, African American and female. She was qualified for the position and ultimately was not hired/terminated because she is an African American female.

- 23. Such discrimination has caused Wilson to suffer damages of severe emotional distress and lost wages including lost employment, lost raises, seniority and retirement benefits, and other benefits associated as Wilson has been subjected to an adverse employment action as a result of the discrimination.
- 24. Wilson is now suffering and will continue to suffer past and future pecuniary losses, emotional and physical pain, suffering, inconvenience, mental anguish, loss of enjoyment of life, and other non-pecuniary losses. These irreparable injuries and monetary damages are the result of EZ Exit Now's discriminatory behavior practices and they will continue unless and until this Court grants relief.

## F. JURY REQUEST

25. Plaintiff requests a trial by jury.

#### G. PRAYER

For these reasons, Plaintiff ALICIA WILSON prays that EZ Exit Now, LLC be cited to appear and answer herein and that this case be advanced for trial before a jury, and that on final hearing this Court grant the following relief:

- a) For actual damages;
- b) Back pay to compensate Plaintiff for loss of income and/or employment related benefits resulting from the discriminatory and retaliatory actions of Defendant EZ Exit Now;
- c) Compensatory damages for severe mental anguish in the past and future, injury to their reputations, for adverse effects on her careers, and for diminished earning capacity resulting from the

- discriminatory and retaliatory actions of Defendant EZ Exit Now;
- d) For exemplary and/or punitive damages in the amount found by the trier of fact to punish and deter continuation of EZ Exit Now's unlawful employment practices;
- e) An award of reasonable attorney's fees and the cost and expenses related to the litigation of this claim;
- f) Pre-judgment interest at the highest rate allowed by law;
- g) Post-judgment interest at the highest rate allowed by law; and
- h) For such other and further relief to which this Court deems Plaintiff is justly entitled and/or deems proper.

Respectfully Submitted,

MOORE & ASSOCIATES

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